

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
(ADA) ADVISORY COUNCIL**

October 17, 2003
MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS: Ed Eames, Toni Eames, Marilyn Jost, Jan Kafton, Bill Hyatt, Shirley Garrett, Brenda Doody, Irene Soto, Carol Casey, Michael Davis, Robert Phillips, Williford Burton and John Ramirez

CITY STAFF: Jon Ruiz, Jon Elam, Stella Evelyn DuBois, Robyn Kale, Jane Rivas, Bob Kishi and Robert Andersen of the Public Works Department, and, Esther Rivas of Caltrans

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. Self introductions were made.

Meeting Minutes The September 19, 2003 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Works Director Addresses ADA Advisory Council

Ed Eames introduced Jon Ruiz as one of the brave souls who participated in the Disability Awareness Day by maneuvering a wheelchair in the downtown area. Jon spoke briefly and thanked the ADA Advisory Council for inviting him to participate, and in their efforts in putting together such a function. Jon felt it was really good for him to participate and thus better understand what is going on. Once again Jon pledged his support to the ADA efforts. He felt Jon Elam and Stella were doing a wonderful job of supporting the Advisory Council and they will continue to do that with his support and hopefully as partners we can continue moving forward in these endeavors.

Ed Eames reiterated his challenge to Jon of the Wednesday Disability Awareness Day Session, in which Jon was to have members of the Public Works Department spend an hour and a half in a wheelchair. Jon Ruiz indicated that would be no problem. He asked that it be set it up and he would have staff participate. He emphasized how Stella has just been begging to be into a wheelchair for a day, maybe the whole week.

Member Issues Not on Agenda

- " Marilyn Jost: Announced the new brochures are available. Robyn Kale passed them out. Marilyn also inquired where the funds come from to print and distribute flyers notifying folks of the ADA Hotline. Jon Elam responded that it comes out of the ADA Advisory Council budget.
- " John Ramirez: Mentioned his participation in the Disability Awareness Day and felt it was sad that there were considerable problems and at times dangerous situations for the members who opted to sit in these wheelchairs. Toni Eames stated in her opinion it was not a sad thing but instead very appropriate for these individuals to personally experience the obstructions and barriers that the disabled face on a daily basis. Discussion ensued on retrofitting dangerous existing ramps or cuts and setting up priority lists. Securing an intern to do this was discussed.
- " Jane Rivas: Had several calls come in on the ADA Hotline which were non-ADA compliance related. She was asked forward those type of calls on to Ed Eames.

Public Works Curb Cut Standards

Robert Andersen was given the assignment of putting together the Public Works Standards and is working with Annette Carter on finalizing the curb ramp detail. Robert stated he has incorporated Annette's concerns and comments. Toni Eames stated Annette would be the legal expert with regard to curb ramps .

Marilyn Jost and John Ramirez were interested in reviewing these plans as well. Robert would secure Marilyn and John's address from Stella. Final deadline for comments will be October 30, 2003.

ADA Hotline/Website

Jane Rivas responded to questions from the ADA Advisory Council and reported that she has only received one or two calls on the "hotline" regarding curbs and gutters. Jane did report a call received regarding some poles obstructing the sidewalk right-of-way. A canned follow-up letter was suggested to notify "hotline" callers of how their call was handled. Mr. Robert Phillips took this opportunity to report the on-ramp of the sidewalk at Willow and Hamilton. Jon Elam indicated he would look into it.

Amtrak Depot

Bob Kishi, Architect for the Public Works Department explained the project. The Santa Fe Amtrak Depot is on the National Register of Historic Buildings. Because it is a historical building it is important to preserve the existing structure as much as possible. However, because it is a historical building it will be a considerable challenge in making the structure and the surrounding area accessible and ADA compliant. Bob went over many of the changes that are being considered. It was established that the Federal Government has contributed two million dollars to complete these renovations.

Bob fielded questions and responded to concerns from the Advisory Council. Marilyn Jost, John Ramirez, and Annette Carter will be reviewing the plans for the Amtrak Depot with Bob Kishi.

CalTrans Update

Esther Rivas was in attendance representing Caltrans. Esther reported on funding being approved for the over-crossings of Fresno, Olive and Belmont. Jon Elam asked Esther for a set of the plans for Fresno, Olive and Belmont overcrossing curbs and ramps and who should be thanked for getting the funds to move forward with these projects. Ed Eames will be writing a thank you letter to Mr. Leonardo.

Ed Eames stated he keeps hearing about Community Grants and asked Esther whether Caltrans has any programs that can provide funding for the work that has to be done for the City to end up with a Barrier Free set of sidewalks. Esther stated she will look into that.

Esther also took the opportunity to thank the Advisory Council for including Caltrans in the Disability Awareness Day events. It was a real eye opener for her agency.

Curb Cut Issues

There is a lot of on-going work with curb cuts/ramps and until some of that work is completed for a more detailed and conclusive report we will move on to other items.

Transition Plans

Not an action item and was postponed to the December meeting.

Disability Awareness Day - Report

Due to Jose Luis Barraza's absence, this follow-up report was postponed.

MIG Update

Robyn Kale gave an MIG update and Jon Elam reported that one of the most important things that has occurred in the last month is that we've finally identified official ADA Council Liaisons for every single department and this will make it much easier for the group to notify these people to attend a meeting and report on specifics for their department.

Additional Member Items

- " Marilyn Jost mentioned that in speaking with Council Member Cynthia Sterling she was notified of an Open House for individuals who are interested in buying low income housing. This event will take place at the Ivy Community Center on Saturday, October 18, 2003 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Vidal Medina is working diligently with that project because one of our goals is accessible low income housing.
- " John Ramirez announced that he will be leaving on November 7, 2003 for his back surgery and will be out for at least three to four months. He will stay in contact. He thanked Jon Elam for having an open door policy and stated that even if he didn't he would come crashing through his door anyway.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m. The next meeting of the ADA Advisory Council is scheduled for December 5, 2003.